Ms. Ann H. Berger  
Damage Assessment and Restoration Program Coordinator  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of the General Counsel  
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC #4  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Berger:


The Service’s role as a cooperating agency will be limited to: (1) participating in meetings to provide technical work group baseline information on project area fish and wildlife resources within our trusteeship, (2) evaluating the proposed LRRPP-related impacts to those resources, and (3) providing assistance in the preparation of a biological assessment addressing the impacts of the proposed activity to federally listed threatened or endangered species and their critical habitats. Given the substantial amount of salary, overhead, and travel funds the Service has expended in pre-scoping development of the LRRPP, we request that NOAA consider providing reimbursable funding to help defray those costs associated with our continuing technical assistance.

We appreciate the opportunity to be a cooperating agency in this matter. By copy of this letter, I am assigning our Lafayette Field Office as the primary contact for this cooperative effort. If you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact Dr. Diane K. Beeman, Regional Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Spill Response Coordinator, of my staff at 404/679-7094, or David Frugé, Field Supervisor, of the Lafayette Field Office at 337/291-3100.

Sincerely yours,

Sam D. Hamilton  
Regional Director